

THE  
A  
INCREASE  
SERMON  
OF  
SERIES  
HIS  
IN ISAIAH  
KINGDOM



Beverly Heights  
Presbyterian  
Church

OCTOBER 26, 2025

# Beverly Heights Church

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Welcome and Greeting

Rev. Dr. Nathanael Devlin, Senior Pastor

Announcements

Amy Lucas, Church Administrator

<b><i>THE LORD GATHERS US FOR WORSHIP</i></b>
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Prelude

*Christ, the King of Glory*  
Jinna Park, *Accompanist and Organist*

Page

*The first note of the prelude marks the beginning of worship. Please use this brief period of time for prayer and preparation while keeping conversation at a low volume and to a minimum. **Please refrain from clapping unless led to do so.***

Call to Worship

**Leader:** This is the day the Lord has made!

**People:** We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Choral Introit

*God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength*

Prayer of Invocation

Opening Hymn of Praise **No. 4**

vv. 1-4

*All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

Responsive Reading

Psalm 46

Dr. Kyle David Bennett

**Leader:** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

**People:** There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

**Leader:** The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**People:** Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

**Leader:** “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

**People:** The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

## 4

## All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful  
deeds for men. Ps. 107:15

1. All praise to God, who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -  
2. What God's al - might - y pow'r hath made his gra - cious mer - cy  
3. I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, O hear my  
4. The Lord for - sak - eth not his flock, his cho - sen gen - er -

a - tion, the God of won - ders, pow'r, and love, the God of our sal -  
keep - eth; by morn - ing dawn or eve - ning shade his watch - ful eye ne'er  
call - ing! For death he gave me life in - deed and kept my feet from  
a - tion; he is their ref - uge and their rock, their peace and their sal -

va - tion! With heal - ing balm my soul he fills, the God who  
sleep - eth; with - in the king - dom of his might, lo, all is  
fall - ing. For this my thanks shall end - less be; O thank him,  
va - tion. As with a moth - er's ten - der hand he leads his

ev - ery sor - row stills. To God all praise and glo - ry!  
just and all is right. To God all praise and glo - ry!  
thank our God with me. To God all praise and glo - ry!  
own, his cho - sen band. To God all praise and glo - ry!

<b>THE LORD CLEANSSES OUR SIN</b>
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Unison Prayer of Confession, Followed by Silent Confession of Sin

*Please bow your head. For those who are able, you are invited to kneel during the confession of sin.*

**Almighty God, You have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned Him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before Him or acknowledged His rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to give Him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin that we may be Your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the Church, His body. In His name we pray, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*Hear the good news of the gospel: Righteousness will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

Unison Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who, for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Ps. 46:1*

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of  
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the  
 do - us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
 bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?  
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,  
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great;  
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, Lord Sa - ba - oth his name,  
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,  
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:

and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 for lo! his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 God's truth a - bid - eth still; his king - dom is for - ev - er.

**THE LORD SANCTIFIES OUR LIVES**

New Testament Lesson

Revelation 19:1-10

Mr. Peter A. Chace

Hymn of Praise No. 342

vv. 1, 3, 5

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Choral Anthem

*O God beyond All Praising*

Hayes

Congregational Response No. 731

*Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all  
creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Children ages 18 months to kindergarten are dismissed to the Walkabouts Room and Runabouts Room.  
The Nursery is open but not staffed. All other children remain in worship with their families.*

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 62:1-12

Sermon

**The Increase of His Kingdom**  
For Zion's Sake

Pastor Devlin

## Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

342

*The Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation." Is. 28:16*

1. Christ is made the sure foun- da - tion, Christ the head and cor- ner- stone,  
 2. All that ded - i - cat - ed cit - y, dear - ly loved of God on high,  
 3. To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of hosts, to - day:  
 4. Here vouch- safe to all thy ser- vants what they ask of thee to gain,  
 5. Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or to the Son,

cho - sen of the Lord and pre- cious, bind - ing all the church in one;  
 in ex - ul - tant ju - bi - la - tion pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy;  
 • with thy wont - ed lov - ing- kind - ness hear thy peo - ple as they pray;  
 what they gain from thee for - ev - er with the bless - ed to re - tain,  
 laud and hon - or to the Spir - it, ev - er Three and ev - er One,

ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 God the One in Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.  
 • and thy full - est ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.  
 and here - af - ter in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.  
 One in might, and One in glo - ry, while un - end - ing a - ges run.



## For All the Saints

*They will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.* Rev. 14:13

*Unison*

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
 2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
 3. O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold,  
 4. The golden evening brightens in the west;  
 5. But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
 6. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,

who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
 thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
 fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
 soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;  
 the saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
 through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,

thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
 thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
 and win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
 sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.  
 the King of glory passes on his way.  
 sing - ing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

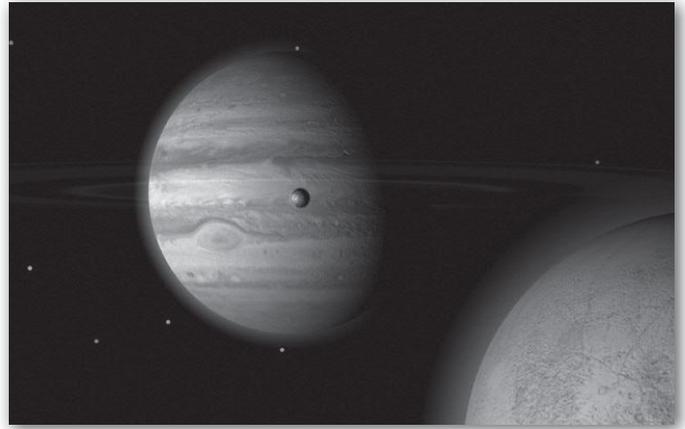
# Song of Jupiter

NATHANAEL DEVLIN *on the Hymn That Turned His World Around*

I WAS RAISED IN A CHRISTIAN HOME; my parents were former Roman Catholics who came to know the Lord during the Charismatic renewal of the 1970s. When my parents moved from Long Island, New York, to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, they joined a growing charismatic church full of young, enthusiastic, Spirit-filled men and women who were eager to worship in a style that was consistent with the charismatic renewal. In those days, the musical aspect of this style was folksy, populist, and usually guitar-driven.

We did not sing many traditional hymns at church when I was young, but were well stocked with the newly written “praise choruses” of that time; indeed, our worship services rose on the same wave as did the burgeoning contemporary Christian music industry. Thus, I remember often singing Steffi Geiser Rubin and Stuart Dauermann’s “The Trees of the Field” (based on Isaiah 55:12), Jack Hayford’s “Majesty,” Twila Paris’s “He Is Exalted,” and Pete Sanchez’s “I Exalt Thee.” My exposure to contemporary Christian music continued through the years, both within and outside of church. I attended 2nd Chapter of Acts and Petra rock concerts along the way and, in my late teen years, made two pilgrimages to the Jesus People U.S.A.’s Cornerstone Music Festival in Bushnell, Illinois.

I have many fond memories of that church of my youth: the domed building in which we worshiped, which had belonged to the local water authority before the church purchased it and converted it into a worship space; the mustard-colored carpets, brown walls, dark woods, and brown vinyl chairs of the interior, a style of décor popular in the late 1970s and early 1980s; the dancing in the sanctuary, the tambourines, the band, and even the pastor pulling out his old trumpet once in a while and joining the worship leader in a chorus or two. I suspect that my experiences in that congregation have, for good and ill, powerfully shaped the person I am today. In the end, it was a congregation that introduced me to Jesus, and I will always be grateful to my parents for committing themselves to taking me to church when I was very young.



## ENRAPTURED BY THAXTED

This upbringing meant that, when I first came to serve at Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh in 2004, I was largely ignorant of the music that the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church has been familiar with for hundreds, even thousands, of years. At Beverly Heights, however, I quickly became exposed to more traditional hymns. My first exposure to one particular hymn is especially memorable. It happened one Sunday when I was participating in our second worship service, the traditional one.

As we began to sing one particular hymn, unfamiliar to me at the time, I felt a deep resonance within me, partly because there was so much bass in the music that when the organ played, I could feel the sound waves in my chest. But there was more. The hymn exuded such majesty and glory, such weightiness and royalty, that I felt drenched in it. The whole experience was wonderful, and in the following weeks, I continued to reflect on the effect this sublime hymn had had on me.

Some time later, our Senior Pastor needed to travel, and I was called upon to put together the traditional morning worship service. I knew I wanted to include that sublime hymn; the only problem was, I had no idea what its name was. I had forgotten to take note of the name of the hymn and couldn’t remember any of the verses.

I went to our organist for help, but, having had no musical training, I could only describe the hymn by sharing my experience of it and mimicking some peculiar sounds. Somehow, she made sense of my guttural noises and suggested we try hymn no. 660, “O God Beyond All Praising.” As soon as she began to play, I knew that was the hymn I was looking for, and I included it in the worship service.

Afterwards, I learned that the music of this hymn is known as “Thaxted.” But the most significant things I learned about it, things that have caused my affection for this hymn to grow all the more, came from an unlikely source: the C. S. Lewis scholar Michael Ward.

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## THE GLORY OF JUPITER

Ward is an English clergyman who has become famous for his literary discovery concerning Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*. In own his book, *Planet Narnia*, Ward convincingly argues that Lewis based his seven Narnia stories on the seven planets in medieval cosmology. He suggests that the first tale in the series, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, was based on the imagery and mythology associated with the planet Jupiter. Jupiter (or Jove) was "the king of planets" and also Lewis's favorite. Ward quotes Lewis:

The character [Jupiter] produces in men would now be very imperfectly expressed by the word "jovial," and is not very easy to grasp. . . . We may say that it is *Kingly*; but we must think of a King at peace, enthroned, taking his leisure, serene. . . . In Dante wise and just princes go to his sphere when they die.

He also cites this about Jove from Lewis's long poem "The Planets":

Of wrath ended  
And woes mended, of winter passed  
And guilt forgiven, and good fortune  
Jove is master . . .

Ward suggests that the line "of winter passed / and guilt forgiven" may be the best single-line summary of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Indeed, the whole story is concerned with the passing of the White Witch's winter and the forgiveness of Edmund's guilt, and this is all accomplished by the good King Aslan, the king of peace, through his sacrificial death on the stone table.

## ENRAPTURED AGAIN

Lewis was not the only artist to make use of planetary imagery. Between 1914 and 1916 the English composer Gustav Holst wrote an orchestral suite entitled *The Planets*, in which each of the seven movements depicts one of the planets. Lewis is said to have often listened to Holst's suite with great delight. Last winter, as I was reading *Planet Narnia*, I was inspired to listen to *The Planets* myself, so I purchased a copy and downloaded the music to my iPhone.

I played the music for the first time on a Saturday morning in early spring, while I cooked breakfast for my children and myself. We had sat down to eat by the time "Jupiter," the fourth movement, began to play. About halfway through the piece my jaw suddenly dropped: I was listening to the same majestic, glorious music I had first heard at worship all those months ago. I grabbed my copy of the *Trinity Hymnal* and turned to no. 660, and there, at the bottom of the page, it read, "Thaxted, From

Gustav Holst, *The Planets*, 1918." (Thaxted, I later learned, is an English village where Holst lived while working on the suite.)

With "Jupiter" playing in the background, I began to read the hymn text and weep for beauty and joy:

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
At blessings without number and mercies without  
end:

We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your  
word,  
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we  
bring,  
That we who know your favor may serve you as  
our king;  
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good  
or ill,  
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to  
bless you still:  
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

The entire piece is jovial; both music and text speak to its kingliness. It is a hymn in tribute to the King who makes peace through his blood on the cross, to the King who is enthroned on high at the right hand of the Father, to the King who causes to pass the winter of our sins even as he forgives our guilt.

## THE TRUE JOVIAL KING

I still enjoy contemporary praise choruses, but I've also come to love the older hymns and to appreciate their theological depth, their connection to the Church catholic, their history, and their musical sophistication. As I've grown older, I've also come to love the springtime: to wait anxiously for the passing of winter and to long for the sweetened air, the warmth, the colors, and the beauty of the season. But I've also learned that, as we wait, we sing and rejoice in the knowledge that spring is breaking out through Jesus Christ, the good King, the King at peace. In Christ, our spring has come, through the jovial King who shows us his favor. ❖

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*Nathanael Devlin* is the Associate Pastor at Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church (EPC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania (M.Div. 2005, D.Min. 2012). He and his wife are expecting their third child in December.

# The Increase of His Kingdom

*The Kingdom to Come*

September 21	Isaiah 57:14-21
September 28	Isaiah 58:1-14
October 5	Isaiah 59:1-21
October 12	Isaiah 60:1-22
October 19	Isaiah 61:1-11
October 26	Isaiah 62:1-12
November 2	Isaiah 63:1-14
November 9	Isaiah 63:15-64:12
November 16	Isaiah 65:1-25
November 23	Isaiah 66:1-24

## THIS WEEK AT BEVERLY HEIGHTS

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

9:00 AM Christian Ed for all ages  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
4:30 PM Harvest at the Heights

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

*Church Offices Closed*

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

8:00 AM Men's Study Group  
10:00 AM Staff Meeting  
6:30 PM Fusion (MS & HS Students)

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

4:00 PM Prayer Team Meeting  
7:15 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

8:00 AM Men's Study Group  
1:00 PM Women's Fellowship and  
Crochet Class

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

9:00 AM Christian Ed for all ages  
10:00 AM Worship Service

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## Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church

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**Gathered By His Love For Us ~ Scattered By Our Love For Him**